

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John Garvey on June 11, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please delete claim 2 and replace it with the following

-- 2. (currently amended) The abnormality detection device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said timer counter is initialized at intervals determined according to an event signal supplied thereto. --

Please delete claim 9 and replace it with the following:

-- 9. (currently amended) The abnormality detection device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the abnormality detector device detects the abnormality directly from the communication bus by hardware.--

Amendments to claims 2 and 9 were made to define over the applied prior art.

This system is deemed to be non-obvious over the systems of the prior art

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claims 4, 5, 8 and 12:

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 4 is the inclusion of: a selector configured to store a threshold value from among said plurality of said threshold

values according to a selection signal supplied thereto so as to supply said threshold value to said comparator. It is this feature found in the claim, as it is claimed in the combination that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes this claim allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 5 is the inclusion of: at least two timer counters each configured to measure a time during which a signal transmitted through said communication bus continues to be a first logical level. It is this feature found in the claim, as it is claimed in the combination that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes this claim allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 8 is the inclusion of: at least two timer counters each configured to measure a time during which a signal transmitted through said communication bus continues to be a first logical level. It is this feature found in the claim, as it is claimed in the combination that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes this claim allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 12 is the inclusion of: at least two timer counters each configured to measure a time during which a signal transmitted through said communication bus continues to be a first logical level. It is this feature found in the claim, as it is claimed in the combination that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes this claim allowable over the prior art.

Claims 2-8 are allowed due to their dependency on claim 1.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Hammer (USPN 5,204,954) teaches a remote storage management mechanism and method.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ADITYA S. BHAT whose telephone number is (571)272-2270. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached on 571-272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Aditya Bhat/
Examiner, Art Unit 2863
June 11, 2008

/Bryan Bui/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2863